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ATTACHMENT 4

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The Private Payphone Market Goes Public, Sort of

he major publicly traded IPPs are, of course, required to file periodic reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which provides a glimpse into the values being accorded such properties by the actual participants in the industry. In particular, two of the major companies-PhoneTel Technologies Inc. and Communications Central Inc.—have published considerable detail regarding their respective acquisition activities over recent years. The third major acquisition company, Peoples Telephone, has not published terms of its deals in sufficient detail to permit the type of analysis presented in this article.

Valuation Methods

A few words about the valuation methods used may be helpful. In instances such as the July 1993 acquisition of Public Access Inc., the analysis is straightforward. It was an all cash acquisition, so a simple division of the \$5.75 million acquisition price by the 1,933 phones acquired results in the \$2,885 price per phone indicated. In the single case in which Communications Central stock was used as part of the payment, the stock is valued at the current market value when the terms of the acquisition were finalized. In cases here inmate and third-party "contract" managed phones were involved, we arbitrarily assigned a value of \$2,000 to the managed

| Table 1 Acquisitions by Communications Central (\$000s) | | | | | | | | |
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| Nev. '\$4 | Telso Inc. | 12,590 | 12,590 | 7,303 | 2,250 | | | |
| July '94 | InVision Telecommunications Inc. | 4.246 | 4,246 | 3,770 | - | 236 | 26 | |
| 13 a - | | | | | | | | |
| June '94 | Pay Telephone of Pennsylvania Inc. | 1,105 | 1,105 | 586 | 685 | - | | |
| · | | | | | , 100 E.M.A. Is | | | |
| March '94 | Southnet Communications Corp. | 1,650 | 1,650 | 485 | 450 | - | | |
| Fig. 4 | and the second s | - din i | | | | to the same of the | | |
| July '93 | Public Access Inc. | 5,750 | 5,750 | 550 | 1,993 | - | | |

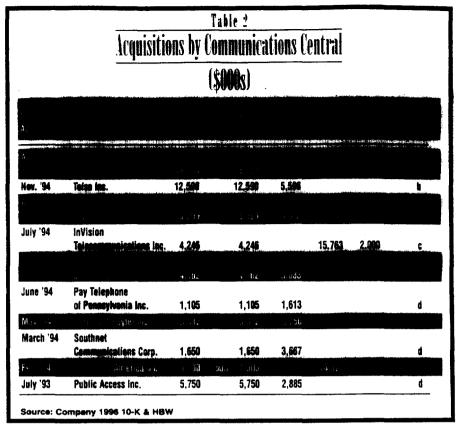
payphones. When both payphones and inmate files are involved, we assign the inmate lines exactly twice the value of a payphone. Although these allocations represent our best judgment, they are essentially arbitrary. However, as an indication of the trends in valuation, consistent treatment results in a valid picture.

Communications Central

Communications Central was very active in acquisitions of both inmate and public payphone properties from the time of its 1993 initial public offering of common stock until early 1995. An abrupt collapse of the company's stock price (see chart) in early 1995 was accompanied by a curtailment of the company's access to capital and ability to continue on its acquisition path. However, during the period that it was active, the company completed ten acquisitions that were significant enough to warrant disclosure to the public. Table 1 presents a summary of the timing and nature of each of these acquisitions, and Table 2 presents our analysis of the implicit private market value placed on each of these transactions, virtually all of which were for stock.

PhoneTel Technologies Inc.

Just as Communications Central faded from the acquisition scene, PhoneTel Technologies, revitalized by a change of management and an infusion of capital, undertook a series of acquisitions, the most recent of which is that of Communications Central itself. If completed, the Communications Central deal will make PhoneTel by far the largest IPP in terms of pay-



phones owned, and the largest publicly-traded third party provider of inmate phone service as well.

With the exception of the Communications Central acquisition, which as of this date has not been completed (pending completion of the necessary financing), all of the PhoneTel's activity has related to public payphones (as opposed to inmate lines). Table 3 presents the price per payphone for each acquisition as we compute it (see footnote 2).

Trends in Private Market Values

As readers will recognize, provisions of section 276 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the resulting FCC Payphone Order appear likely to have a highly favorable impact on the

| Table 3 PhoneTel Technologies Acquisition History | | | | | | | | | |
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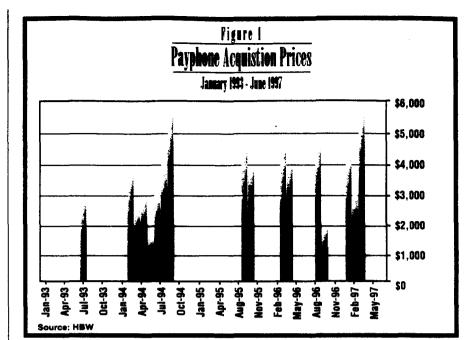
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payphone business generally, increasing the payphone revenue generation of both the IPPs and the local exchange telephone companies. Important portions of the order are currently under appeal before the Federal Appeals Court in Washington, D.C., with a decision possible by the end of July. However, it appears likely that a complete reversal of the FCC order is unlikely. Given this view, it is reasonable to conclude that payphone valuations in the private and public markets alike should be higher today than in the past. But are they?

Figure 1 graphs the prices of the transactions listed in tables 1 through 3 over time.

The striking feature of Figure 1 is that it does not show any clear trend in the apparent pricing of private market payphone transactions. Several of the acquisitions, such as the September, 1996, acquisition of the Amtel Payphones by PhoneTel, were essentially distress sales and are probably not representative of the value of profitable payphone routes (Amtel was in bankruptcy). If anything, the pricing of such deals from 1995 on has been remarkably consistent in the \$4,000 per phone range, with the exception of the PhoneTel/Communications Central transaction (but even there we may be underestimating the value of the inmate lines, hence overstating that of the payphones). It is particularly notable that the deals done after passage of the Telecom Act show no general increase in private market pricing.

Future Trends

Evidence from the acquisition activity in the industry tends to confirm what the stocks of the publicly traded payphone companies themselves are telling us: The Telecom Act and Payphone Order have not, in fact, generated any

general increase in the valuation of either the stocks of the IPPs or of payphone assets themselves. Or at least not so far as the reported transactions indicate.

At least one of the public companies (Peoples Telephone) has stated publicly that it has seen the "asking price" of independently owned payphone routes escalate to the \$6,500 per phone range. However, the asking price is not necessarily the market-determined value, and no transactions have been reported at those levels that we know of. (At least one other payphone company said privately that at \$6,500 per phone, it would be selling, not buying.)

On the other hand, the regulatory and other changes in the payphone industry have the potential to double or triple the cash flow generated by a typical payphone (through dial-around compensation and deregulation of the local coin rate). Given this, it appears reasonable to suggest that the market should show some increase in valuation levels for both public and private companies. But that has yet to be seen. My conclusion is that investors—public and private alike have become so gun-shy of this industry, that the benefits of the Payphone Order will not be reflected in valuation until they are reflected in the reality of improved cash flow and profitability rather than the mere potential they are perceived to be today.

John S. Bain is a senior vice president and director of research at Hoak Breedlove Wesneski & Co., a Dallas-based investment and merchant banking firm with involvement in all aspects of the telecom industry. For more information, call (972) 960-4846.

ATTACHMENT 5

FLEX ANI2.3M

ANNUAL CAPITAL COST PER CALL OF PROVIDING FLEX-ANI @ 18959 OFFICES

| NVESTMENT L1Software Inv./per office L2 Number of Offices l'otal Initial Investment L1*L2 | 9000 18959 | YR1 (Start of Year) \$170,631,000 | YR2 | YR3 | YR4 | YR5 | YR6 | YR7 |
|---|---------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DEPRECIATION | | | | | | | | |
| L3Depreciation per year @7 yr. life L4Accumulated Depreciation | 7 | \$24,375,857 \$24,375,857 | \$24,375,857 \$48,751,714 | \$24,375,857 \$73,127,571 | \$24,375,857 \$97,503,429 | \$24,375,857 \$121,879,286 | \$24,375,857 \$146,255,143 | \$24,375,857 \$170,631,000 |
| L5 NET INVESTMENT | | \$146,255,143 | \$121,879,286 | \$97,503,429 | \$73,127,571 | \$48,751,714 | \$24,375,857 | \$0 |
| RETURN AND TAXES | | | | | | | | |
| L6 RETURN L5*11.25% | | \$16,453,704 | \$13,711,420 | \$10,969,136 | \$8,226,852 | \$5,484,568 | \$2,742,284 | \$0 |
| L7 FIT Gross Up (.34/(134)*L6 | 0.5151515 | \$8,476,150 | \$7,063,459 | \$5,650,767 | \$4,238,075 | \$2,825,383 | \$1,412,692 | \$0 |
| L8 TOTAL CAPITAL COST (L3+L6+L7) | | \$49,305,711 | \$45,150,735 | \$40,995,760 | \$36,840,784 | \$32,685,808 | \$28,530,833 | \$24,375,857 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PER CALL L8/L9 | | 0.013636937 | 0.012487757 | 0.011338577 | 0.010189397 | 0.009040217 | 0.007891037 | 0.006741857 |
| CURRENT LINE COUNT | 2300000 | | | | | | | |
| ASSUMED CALLS / LINE/MONTH L9 ANNUAL CALL VOLUME | 131 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 | 3615600000 |
| | | | | | | | | |

FLEX ANI2M

ANNUAL CAPITAL COST PER CALL OF PROVIDING FLEX-ANI @ 18959 OFFICES

| INVESTMENT L1Software Inv./per office L2 Number of Offices Total Initial Investment L1*L2 | 9000 18959 | YR1 (Start of Year) \$170,631,000 | YR2 | YR3 | YR4 | YR5 | YR6 | YR7 |
|---|----------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DEPRECIATION | 7 | * 04.075.057 | * 04.275.057 | 604 275 057 | 604 075 05 7 | 604 275 057 | 604 275 957 | 604 27E 0E7 |
| L3Depreciation per year @7 yr. life L4Accumulated Depreciation | 7 | \$24,375,857 \$24,375,857 | \$24,375,857 \$48,751,714 | \$24,375,857 \$73,127,571 | \$24,375,857 \$97,503,429 | \$24,375,857 \$121,879,286 | \$24,375,857 \$146,255,143 | \$24,375,857 \$170,631,000 |
| L5 NET INVESTMENT | | \$146,255,143 | \$121,879,286 | \$97,503,429 | \$73,127,571 | \$48,751,714 | \$24,375,857 | \$0 |
| RETURN AND TAXES L6 RETURN L5*11.25% L7 FIT Gross Up (.34/(134)*L6 | 0.51515 | \$16,453,704 \$8,476,150 | \$13,711,420 \$7,063,459 | \$10,969,136 \$5,650,767 | \$8,226,852 \$4,238,075 | \$5,484,568 \$2,825,383 | \$2,742,284 \$1,412,692 | \$0 \$0 |
| L8 TOTAL CAPITAL COST (L3+L6+L7) | | \$49,305,711 | \$45,150,735 | \$40,995,760 | \$36,840,784 | \$32,685,808 | \$28,530,833 | \$24,375,857 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PER CALL L8/L9 | | 0.015682478 | 0.014360921 | 0.013039364 | 0.011717807 | 0.01039625 | 0.009074692 | 0.007753135 |
| CURRENT LINE COUNT ASSUMED CALLS / LINE/MONTH L9 ANNUAL CALL VOLUME | 2000000 131 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 | 3144000000 |

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rena Martens, do hereby certify that on this
9th day of September, 1997, a copy of the foregoing "AT&T Reply"
was mailed by U.S. first class mail, postage prepaid, to the
parties on the attached service list.

Rena Martens

Mark A. Stachiw, Esq. AirTouch Paging 12221 Merit Dr., Suite 800 Dallas, TX 75251

Albert H. Kramer
Robert F. Aldrich
Dickstein Shapiro Morin &
Oshinsky LLP
2101 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1526
Attorneys for American Public
Communications Council

Rachel J. Rothstein, Esq. Cable & Wireless, Inc. 8219 Leesburg Pike Vienna, VA 22182

Ronald Binz
Debra Berlyn
John Windhausen, Jr.
Competition Policy Institute
1156 15th St., N.W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20005

Genevieve Morelli
The Competitive
Telecommunications Association
1900 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036

Carl W. Northrop
E. Ashton Johnston
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
1299 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Tenth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
Attorneys for AirTouch Paging

Charles H. Helein
Helein & Associates, P.C.
8180 Greensboro Dr.
Suite 700
McLean, VA 22102
Attorney for America's Carriers
Telecommunication Association

Barry E. Selvidge Communications Central Inc. 1150 Northmeadow Parkway Suite 118 Roswell, GA 30076

Danny Adams
Steven A. Augustino
Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP
1200 19th St., N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
Attorneys for Competitive
Telecommunications Association

Dana Frix
Pamela S. Arluk
Swidler & Berlin, Chtd.
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007

Michael J. Shortley, III Frontier Corporation 180 South Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14646 Kathy L. Shobert General Communication, Inc. 901 15th St., N.W., Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20005

Albert H. Kramer
Robert F. Aldrich
Jacob S. Farber
Dickstein Shapiro Morin &
Oshinsky LLP
2101 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1526
Attorneys for Inmate Calling
Service Providers Coalition

Glenn B. Manishin
Michael D. Specht
Blumenfeld & Cohen
Technology Law Group
1615 M Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Attorneys for The International
Telecard Association

Danny E. Adams
Steven A. Augustino
John J. Heitmann
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
1200 19th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Attorneys for LCI International
Telecom Corp.

Mary J. Sisak
Mary L. Brown
MCI Telecommunications Corp.
1801 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Steven P. Goldman
Bradley D. Toney
MIDCOM Communications Inc.
1111 Third Avenue, Suite 1600
Seattle, WA 98101

Laura H. Phillips
Loretta J. Garcia
Dow, Lohnes & Albertson, PLLC
1200 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-6802
Attorneys for MIDCOM
Communications Inc.

Lisa Mullings NATSO, Inc. 1199 North Fairfax Street Suite 801 Alexandria, VA 22314-1492

Judith St. Ledger-Roty
Wendy I. Kirchick
Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP
1200 19th St., N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20036
Attorneys for Paging Network,
Inc.

Eric L. Bernthal
Michael S. Wroblewski
Latham & Watkins
Suite 1300
1001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Attorneys for Peoples Telephone
Company, Inc.

Bruce W. Renard Peoples Telephone Company, Inc. 2300 N.W. 89th Place Miami, FL 33172

Robert L. Hoggarth
Personal Communications
Industry Association
500 Montgomery St., Suite 700
Alexandria, VA 22314

Scott Blake Harris
Kent D. Bressie
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Attorneys for Personal
Communications Industry Assn.

Michael K. Kellogg
Jeffrey A. Lamken
Kevin J. Cameron
Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd
& Evans
1301 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1000 West
Washington, D.C. 20005
Attorneys for the RBOC/GTE/SNET
Payphone Coalition

Dana Frix
William B. Wilhelm, Jr.
Swidler & Berlin, Chtd.
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
Attorneys for RCN Telecom
Services, Inc.

Leon M. Kestenbaum Jay C. Keithley H. Richard Juhnke Sprint Corporation 1850 M Street, N.W., 11th Fl. Washington, D.C. 20036 Theodore C. Rammelkamp, Jr. Telaleasing Enterprises, Inc. 601 West Morgan Jacksonville, IL 62650

Charles C. Hunter
Catherine M. Hannan
Hunter Communications Law Group
1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 701
Washington, D.C. 20006
Attorneys for Telecommunications
Resellers Association

Teresa Marrero
Teleport Communications
Group Inc.
Two Teleport Drive
Staten Island, NY 10311

Mary McDermott
Linda Kent
Keith Townsend
Hance Haney
United States Telephone
Association
1401 H Street, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005

Douglas F. Brent WorldCom, Inc. 9300 Shelbyville Road Suite 700 Louisville, KY 40222

Richard S. Whitt 1120 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036 Attorney for WorldCom, Inc. Reginald R. Bernard SDN Users Association, Inc. PO Box 414 Bridgewater, NJ 08807